

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-85. (withdrawn).

86. (currently amended): A method of acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said method comprising the steps of:

computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and

acquiring said processed frame by obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that becomes greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame.

87. (currently amended): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 86, wherein said desired frame is partitioned into a plurality of areas; said similarity is computed for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if~~

~~said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted areas and said plurality of areas.

88. (currently amended): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 86, wherein said desired frame is partitioned into a plurality of subject areas that are included in said desired frame;

said similarity is computed for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas.

89. (currently amended): An image processor for acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said image processor comprising:

similarity computation means for computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before ~~and~~ or after said desired frame; and

synthesis means for obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that becomes greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame.

90. (currently amended): The image processor as set forth in claim 89, wherein said similarity computation means partitions said desired frame into a plurality of areas and computes said similarity for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

said synthesis means obtains weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weights said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizes said weighted areas and said plurality of areas into said processed frame.

91. (currently amended): The image processor as set forth in claim 89, wherein said similarity computation means partitions said desired frame into a plurality of subject areas that are included in said desired frame, and computes said similarity for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis means obtains weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weights said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizes said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

92. (currently amended): A computer program comprising a program code stored on a storage medium which can be read by a computer, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method of acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said program code comprising:

a similarity computation procedure of computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and

a synthesis process of obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that becomes greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame.

93. (currently amended): The computer program as set forth in claim 92, wherein

said similarity computation procedure comprises a procedure of partitioning said desired frame into a plurality of areas and a procedure of computing said similarity for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

said synthesis procedure is a procedure of obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted areas and said plurality of areas into said processed frame.

94. (currently amended): The computer program as set forth in claim 92, wherein

said similarity computation procedure comprises a procedure of partitioning said desired frame into a plurality of subject areas that are included in said desired frame, and a procedure of computing said similarity for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis procedure is a procedure of obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity~~that become greater if said similarity becomes greater~~, then weighting said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

95. (new): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 87, wherein

a motion vector is computed for each area of said plurality of areas;

said areas are grouped into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas;

said similarity is computed for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas.

96. (new): The image processor as set forth in claim 90, wherein

a moving vector computation means computes a moving vector for each area of said plurality of areas;

said similarity computation means groups said areas into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas, and computes said similarity for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis means obtains weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weights said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizes said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

97. (new): The computer program as set forth in claim 93, further comprising a moving vector computation procedure for computing a moving vector for each area of said plurality of areas; wherein

said similarity computation procedure comprises a procedure of grouping said areas into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas, and a procedure of computing said similarity for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis procedure is a procedure of obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

98. (new): The image processor as set forth in claim 89, further comprising:

similarity computation means for computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and

synthesis means for obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame

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with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame
into said processed frame.